Instrument Upgrade Ideas

As you progress through band, it is a good idea to consider upgrading equipment. These upgrades vary from changing ligatures and mouthpieces and all the way up to a new instrument. If you plan on continuing in to high school and beyond, I would recommend these items to upgrade…EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A METRONOME/TUNER. These typically run around $20. The Accent ACC405 model is a good combo to own. If you use your iPad, there is a tuner/metronome app called Musician's Kit that should already be installed.

Flutes

Consider purchasing an instrument that is "open hole" and has a "b-foot". These to items give a bigger range and a stronger tone. These items are only recommended once students have enough breath support to use an open hole flute. You may want to consider a sterling silver head joint when you purchase a new instrument. You can contact Quinlan and Fabish for prices. Some of the models include the Gemeinhardt 3SHB, Powell Sonare SF501 Signature, or a Yamaha YFL 381H. If you want to get really serious, consider the Gemeinhardt 33SB, Emerson Model 88B, or Yamaha YFL 574H.

Clarinets

A relatively inexpensive way to upgrade your clarinet is in the ligature and/or a new mouthpiece. These items can improve tone once students have enough breath support and control. New ligatures like Rovner, or Bonade, or Luyben make a difference in the tone of your reed and instrument. These ligatures can run anywhere from $10 to $30 or more. Quinlan and Fabish can recommend the right ligature for your student.
Mouthpieces can range anywhere from $50 to $250. The most recommended mouthpiece is the Vandoren B45 which runs around $90. If you call Q and F, they also should have generic equivalent if you want to go that route. If you want to purchase a new instrument, get an instrument made out of wood, not plastic. Save the plastic instrument for marching band!

Saxophones

A relatively inexpensive way to upgrade your saxophone is in the ligature and/or a new mouthpiece. These items can improve tone once students have enough breath support and control. New ligatures like Rovner, or Bonade, or Luyben make a difference in the tone of your reed and instrument. These ligatures can run anywhere from $10 to $30 or more. Quinlan and Fabish can recommend the right ligature for your student.
Mouthpieces can range anywhere from $50 to $250. The most recommended mouthpiece is the Selmer C*, which runs around $130. There is also the Vandoren A-27. If you call Q and F, they also should have generic equivalent if you want to go that route.

Trumpets/Trombones

Trumpets should consider buying a straight mute for their instrument. These range in price from $13 up to $35. I would recommend either the Humes and Berg straight mute, or the Vachiano. Students should also consider upgrading their mouthpiece to either a Bach 3C or a Schilke 15B for Trumpets and a Bach 61/2 AL or a Schilke 48 for Trombones. These can run round $40 to $60. You will want to contact Q and F for prices.

Percussion

Start with a stick bag. This should last most of you through High School Band. Stick bags run around $14.

If you don't have snare sticks, you can get a pair of American General SD1 snare sticks for around $9.25 a pair

If you would like to have your own pair of xylophone sticks, a good pair will run you around $27.50 a pair.

If you want your own pair of bell mallets, these start around $23.50 a pair.

If you would like to buy your own timpani mallets, these start around $31.50 a pair.

These prices are not a quote. You should contact www.qandf.com or call 1-800-63-SOUSA for all updated prices.